

campaign finance reform did not end last night. Our campaign finance system is broken and something must be done to take the influence of big money out of the process. The incremental bills we passed last night did nothing to address the fundamental problems in the system.

Until we do more, campaigns will continue to be dominated by soft money, independent expenditures and pressure on candidates to raise more money to combat these groups. There are a number of bipartisan campaign reform bills that begin to address these problems, the Shays-Meehan bill, and the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act both would reduce the influence of big money in politics. The House must be given the opportunity to vote on these bills.

The partisan tricks that the leadership used last night were are sham and a fraud on the people of this nation. The leadership should in no way assume that they made good on their promise to allow a vote on campaign finance reform. Until we have an open, honest vote on campaign finance reform I will not end my efforts to force that vote. The people of my district did not send me here to accept "no" as an answer.

AMERICA'S POLICE OPPOSE THE SAFE ACT (H.R. 695)

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Association of Chiefs of Police, the District Attorneys' Association, and The National Association of Attorneys General all oppose H.R. 695 (The SAFE ACT). The members of these organizations are planning to visit with Members of Congress this Spring to urge opposition to the SAFE ACT.

The Justice Department found that the bill would "severely compromise law enforcement's ability to protect the American people from the threats posed by terrorists, organized crime, child pornographers . . . and other criminals," the President will veto the bill if it is presented to him in its current form.

The so called SAFE ACT (H.R. 695) presents an extremely one-sided response to the encryption issue. The bill was drafted by and for the software industry, at the expense of the national security and public safety needs of the American people.

In an editorial, The Washington Post declared that "the real question is whether you believe this stuff poses a significant national security threat in the wrong hands. If you do—and we think it irresponsible to assume otherwise—then it's not enough to declare uncrackable privacy a civil right. You have to at least address the question of how to minimize intrusion into that right while preserving some ability to grapple with the potential danger."

The SAFE ACT (H.R. 695) is an unacceptable, unbalanced solution to the critical issue of encryption. It is imperative that the provisions included by the National Security Committee and the Intelligence Committee be incorporated into the Goodlatte bill in order to effect a compromise between the needs of in-

dustry and the legitimate law enforcement and international security needs of the American people. I respectfully request that you support a balanced encryption policy and oppose H.R. 695.

FOREST RECOVERY AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2515) to address declining health of forests on Federal lands in the United States through a program of recovery and protection consistent with the requirements of existing public land management and environmental laws, to establish a program to inventory, monitor, and analyze public and private forests and their resources, and for other purposes:

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, I know all too well how valuable our Nation's forests are, because in Eastern Long Island we have lost to development hundreds of thousands of acres of pine barrens that protect and filter the water that settles into the sole source aquifer that holds our drinking water.

The Forest Recovery and Protection Act (H.R. 2515) before us today would sacrifice the public benefits of our forests like water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation and instead promote clear cutting in our last remaining unspoiled wild forests.

Instead, we should be building on recent Forest Service efforts to study and protect these vanishing roadless areas.

When the studies are done and the facts are in, only then should we decide what to do about the practice of commercial logging on public lands.

The Forest Recovery and Protection Act (H.R. 2515) before us today pretends to be about a "forest health crisis;" in fact, the only crisis in our National Forests has been caused by excessive road building and destructive logging—a practice that would continue under this legislation if it is passed today.

The Leach-McKinney bill that I am an original sponsor of would put an end to decades of forest management for the benefit of timber industry profits and instead protect the public benefits of our forests like watershed protection and recreation.

The Forest Recovery and Protection Act (H.R. 2515) would steal money from environmental restoration and roads maintenance programs and put it into a new slush fund to promote clear cutting programs.

It specifically directs the government to ignore the costs to taxpayers of the clear cutting programs in this bill.

Money that now goes to promote irresponsible logging through Forest Service slush funds, should instead be put into environmental restoration and job training programs to create sustainable local economies, no longer based on environmental destruction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was traveling with the President in Africa Friday, March 27, 1998, and was unable to vote. I would have voted in favor of the Boehlert amendment to H.R. 2515 (Rollcall No. 79). I would have voted against H.R. 2515 (Rollcall No. 80).

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES, H. RES. 404

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce today a Resolution commemorating 100 years of relations between the people of the United States and the people of the Philippines. It is right and fitting that the House of Representatives makes note of the special relationship that the United States and the Philippines have shared for nearly a century.

The beginning of our country's relationship with the Philippines in 1898 also marked the beginning of our great interest in the Pacific and the development of strong, robust historical and cultural ties between the Philippines and the United States. To its credit, the Philippines has modeled its governmental institutions of those of the United States and they share our commitment to democracy, human rights and free market economics.

Though the United States and the Philippines are literally an ocean apart, the large Philippine-American community, numbering over 2 million, has immeasurably enriched the social and cultural fabric of the United States and serves as a sturdy bridge of friendship between the two countries.

Until the end of the Cold War, the United States maintained major military facilities in the Philippines which played a significant role in the maintenance of regional peace and stability. The United States has important strategic, economic and political interests at stake in Southeast Asia and in maintaining stability remains an overriding U.S. security concern in the region. To this end, Filipino soldiers have stood shoulder to shoulder with American troops on the battlefields of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam to protect and advance these mutual interests. Today, the Philippines remains an important partner and ally in guarding the peace and maintaining stability in Southeast Asia.

The United States is pleased with the flourishing of democracy in the Philippines. It is hoped that the Philippines will serve as an example to others in the region and will encourage progress in the furthering of democratic principles and practices, respect for human rights, and the enhancement of the rule of law.

The Philippines and the United States are increasingly important trading partners providing the United States with significant commercial opportunities. The Philippines is the twenty-first largest trading partner of the United